

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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P R 161126Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6808

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0481

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, CT

SUBJECT: SCED/GOCAR DISPUTE

REF: STATE 061163

1. OWING TO THE ABSENCE OF SENIOR GOCAR OFFICIALS FROM BANGUI, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO TAKE UP SCED/GOCAR PROBLEM UNTIL NOW. AMBASSADOR, ON MARCH 16, CALLED ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL MAMADOU TO REVIEW WITH HIM CURRENT STATUS OF DDI/SCED EMPLOYEES. THE CALL WAS PARTICULARLY TIMELY SINCE DDI MANAGING DIRECTOR OELBAUM HAD BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE BANGUI THE PREVIOUS EVENING.

2. IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH MAMADOU, THE AMBASSADOR MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT INTERVENING IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN SCED AND THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY, HE SAID, WAS CONCERNED WHEN AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE NOT FREE TO DEPART EVEN ON ANNUAL LEAVE, AND IN ONE CASE AT LEAST, WHEN MEDICAL TREATMENT WAS REQUIRED. AS FAR AS WE WERE AWARE, NO SPECIFIC CHARGES HAD BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST ANY AMERICAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT DISPUTE AND WE, THEREFORE, HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE FREE MOVEMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN AND OUT OF THE CAR.

3. MAMADOU SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO BE HELPFUL. HE ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY SUBMIT A NOTE SUMMARIZING THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE CONVERSATION FOR THE MINISTRY'S FILES. THIS THE EMBASSY HAS DONE.

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4. COMMENT: SINCE BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCK AND PRESIDENT BOKASSA ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH VARIOUS FOREIGN TRIPS AND VISITORS, WE MAY NOT RECEIVE AN EARLY RESPONSE. THE PRESIDENCY, HOWEVER, HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE PRESIDENT HOPES TO MEET WITH THE AMBASSADOR FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THIS MAY PROVIDE THE OCCASION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION REGARDING DDI/SCED DISPUTE.
QUAINTON

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